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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of

Nozer M. MEHTA et al.

Serial No.: 09/060,765

Filed: April 15, 1998

For: DIRECT EXPRESSION OF PEPTIDES INTO CULTURE MEDIA



Date: November 5, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1653

Examiner: H. Schnizer

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO AUGUST 13, 1999 OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated August 13, 1999, please reconsider the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-4, 16-19, 21, 28-31, 39, 44-66, 68-69, 71-72 and 74-101 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 15, 25, 26, 38, 40, 43, 67, 70, and 73 as follows:

Q1
--1. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a plurality of transcription cassettes, each cassette comprises:

(a) a coding region with nucleic acids coding for a peptide product coupled in reading frame 3' of nucleic acids coding for a signal peptide; and

5 (b) a control region linked operably with the coding region, said control region comprising a plurality of promoters and at least one ribosome binding site, wherein at least one of said promoters is tac.--

Q2 B1
--15. (Amended) [The vector of claim 12] An expression vector comprising:

(a) a coding region with nucleic acids coding for a peptide product coupled in reading

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